

REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO THE PRESIDENT'S MURDER

R. V. SIMS - #629 and E. L. BOYD - #610

On November 22, 1963, at 9:00 AM, we arrived for duty at City Hall and reported to Capt. Frits in his office. Capt. Frits, E. L. Boyd, R. M. Sims, R. L. Senkel, and F. M. Turner discussed their assignments for the time President Kennedy was to be in Dallas. Capt. Frits told Sims and Boyd that they were assigned with him to work the President's head table at the Trade Mart. At 10:00 AM Capt. Frits, Boyd, and Sims left the City Hall in Capt. Frits' city squad car. Sims drove to the Trade Mart and arrived there at 10:10 AM. We parked our car on the east parking lot. We walked directly to the Trade Mart and went to the President's table. We met Mr. Dave Grant and Mr. Robert Stewart of the U. S. Secret Service. We discussed our duties and familiarized ourselves with the area of the President's table. We discussed the route of the President to his table and who would be permitted in the roped off area around the President's table. We inspected the President's table and the roped off area. At 12:30 PM Capt. Frits, along with Mr. Robert Stewart of the U. S. Secret Service, made the final inspection of the President's table. At about 12:50 PM Chief M. V. Stevenson came over to the west side of the roped off area and called Capt. Frits. He told Capt. Frits that President Kennedy had been involved in an accident at the triple underpass and was on his way to Parkland Hospital. He advised us to go to Parkland. Capt. Frits, Sims, and Boyd rushed out to their car. Capt. Frits said the report of the President's accident could be a hoax, so Sims checked with the police dispatcher by radio. The dispatcher told us the President had been shot. Sims drove Code 3 to Parkland, arriving there in less than 3 minutes.

Chief Curry was out front of Parkland emergency entrance, and he told Capt. Fritz to go to the scene of the shooting. We rushed back to our car and Sheriff Decker went with us. Sims drove Code 3 to the Texas Book Depository Building at Elm and Houston and parked out front. We arrived there at approximately 12:58 PM and saw that the building was surrounded by Police officers, so we rushed on inside. We got on the elevator with several other officers. Lt. Jack Revill and Det. R. W. Westphal are the only ones that we can remember who rode the elevator with us. We stopped on the second floor, opened the elevator door, and saw officers there. We went on up to the third floor and got off the elevator. Westphal said he had a key to 305. We stayed there about 30 seconds and saw several other officers there, so we got back on the elevator and went to the fourth floor and got off. There were several officers on this floor so we caught the freight elevator and went to the fifth floor. We made a hurried search along the front and west side windows and then went on up to the sixth floor. Some officers stayed on the sixth floor, and we went on up to the seventh floor and started to search along the front windows. About this time someone yelled that some empty hulls had been found on the sixth floor. Capt. Fritz, Sims, and Boyd went to the southeast window on the sixth floor and saw three empty rifle hulls on the floor near the window. The empty hulls were found about 1:15 PM. Deputy Sheriff Luke V. Mooney said he found them and left them lay as they were. He stayed there with the empty hulls to preserve the scene and a methodical search was started by other officers going from east to west. About 1:20 PM, Lt. J. C. Fay and Det. P. I. Studebaker arrived on the sixth floor. Capt. Fritz asked Lt. Fay to take pictures of the hulls and the

surrounding area. About 1:25 PM someone called for Capt. Frits, and he left Det. L. D. Montgomery and Marvin Johnson to stay with the hulls. Capt. Frits, Sims, and Boyd went over to near the stairway where one of the officers had called Capt. Frits. Someone said the gun had been found. Capt. Frits walked between a stack of books and over some books to where the gun was laying between some boxes and partially covered by some paper. The gun was about 5 feet from the west wall and about 8 feet from the west stairway. Sims went back to where Lt. Day was and told him the gun had been found. Lt. Day or Det. Studebaker took another picture of the hulls and said they had already taken pictures of the scene. Sims picked up the empty hulls, and Lt. Day held an envelope open while Sims dropped them in the envelope. Lt. Day then walked over to where the rifle had been found. Det. Studebaker and Lt. Day took pictures of the rifle. Mr. Pinkerton of the F. B. I. and a Secret Service agent were there at the time pictures were being made. We don't know the Secret Service agent's name. Mr. Ellsworth and another officer from Alcohol Tax Department were also there. Lt. Day then picked up the rifle and dusted it for fingerprints. Some man then called Capt. Frits, and he walked over to where the man was. This man gave Capt. Frits the name of Lee Harvey Oswald and his home address in Irvin, Texas. We had just heard that Officer J. D. Tippit had been shot and killed in Oak Cliff. Capt. Frits, Sims, and Boyd then left the Texas Book Depository and someone told Capt. Frits that Sheriff Decker wanted to talk to him. Capt. Frits went over to Sheriff Decker's office and stayed 10 or 15 minutes. Then Capt. Frits, Sims, and Boyd left, and Sims drove Code 3 to City Hall. We arrived at Capt. Frits's office approximately 2:15 PM. There were a lot of people in the Homicide

Persons and Det. T. L. Baker told Capt. Frita that the man who shot Officer Tippit was in the interrogation room. Capt. Frita then found out that this man's name was Lee Harvey Oswald, the same name that he had received at the Texas Book Depository from the man there. At 2:20 PM Sims and Boyd took Oswald from the interrogation room and escorted him into Capt. Frita's office. During the interrogation of Oswald, Mr. Jim Peacock and Mr. Hosty, F. B. I. agents, were in the office with Capt. Frita, Sims and Boyd. There was also a Secret Service agent present and these F. B. I. and Secret Service agents took part in the interrogation of Oswald with Capt. Frita. At 4:05 PM Sims, Boyd, and Det. W. C. Hall took Oswald down to the hold over in the jail office for a show-up. Down in the hold over, Boyd searched Oswald and found five live rounds of .38 calibre pistol shells in his left front pocket. Sims found a bus transfer slip in Oswald's shirt pocket. Oswald took his ring off and gave it to Sims. We put three other men in the show-up with Oswald. They were as follows: #1 Billy Perry, #2 Lee Harvey Oswald, #3 R. L. Clark, and #4 Don Ables. Sims, Hall, and Boyd went on the show-up stage with the men who were in the show-up. The four men were handcuffed together. After the show-up was over, at 4:20 PM, we took Oswald back to Capt. Frita's office where Capt. Frita, F. B. I. agents, and Secret Service Agents talked to Oswald some more. At 6:20 PM Sims, Boyd, and Hall took Oswald back to the show-up room and held a line-up with the same men as were in the first one. They were also numbered the same as the first. At 6:37 PM, we left the show-up room and took Oswald back to Capt. Frita's office. Shortly afterwards, Capt. Frita, Justice of Peace David Johnston, and Assistant District Attorney, Bill Alexander, came to Capt. Frita's office. Capt. Frita signed

a murder complaint against Lee Harvey Oswald which was accepted by Assistant district Attorney, Bill Alexander. This was for the murder of Officer J. D. Tippit. At approximately 7:30 PM, Hall and Boyd were sitting in the office with Oswald and Mr. Clements of the F. B. I. came in and interrogated Oswald. At 7:40 PM Hall, Sims, and Boyd took Oswald back to show-up room. This time there was also three other men in the show up. They were as follows: #1 Richard Walter Borchardt, #2 Lee Harvey Oswald, #3 Ellis Carl Braswell, #4 Don Ables. After the show-up, at 7:55 PM we took Oswald back to Capt. Fritz's office and Mr. Clements continued his interrogation of Oswald for about another half hour. At 8:55 PM Det. Johnny Hicks and R. L. Studebaker of the Crime Lab came to Capt. Fritz's office. Hicks started finger printing Oswald, then Sgt. Pete Barnes came in. Shortly afterward, Capt. George Doughty came in and stayed a few minutes. After Hicks finished finger printing Oswald, he and Barnes made paraffin casts of both hands and also the right side of his face. Det. Studebaker assisted Hicks and Barnes. H. W. Moore, P. W. Sims, and E. L. Boyd were present most of the time while casts were being made. At approximately 11:30 PM Sims and Boyd made out arrest sheets on Oswald and shortly afterward Chief Curry and Capt. Fritz came to Capt. Fritz's office and told us to take Oswald down out in front of the stage at the show up room. Chief Curry gave us instructions not to let anyone touch Oswald, and if they attempted to do so, for us to take him to jail immediately. Capt. Fritz told us that he wanted all the officers in the Homicide Bureau to go down to the show-up room. After a short wait, we took Oswald down to the show-up room shortly after midnight. The show-up room was full of news men. We kept him there about 5 minutes then took him straight to the jail office at approximately 12:20 AM on November 23,

1963. Chief Lumpkin, Sims, Boyd, and Sgt. Warren took Oswald to fourth floor jail and turned him over to the jailers at 12:23 AM.

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On November 23, 1963, we arrived for work at 9:30 AM. At 10:25 AM, Sims, Boyd, and Det. M. G. Hall checked Lee Harvey Oswald out of jail and brought him to Capt. Fritz's office for questioning. Mr. Bookout of the F. B. I., Mr. Robert Nash, U. S. Marshal, and Mr. Kelly of Secret Service were in the office with Capt. Fritz at the time. Boyd and Hall stayed in the office during the interrogation. After Capt. Fritz and the other officers finished their interrogation, Sims, Boyd, and Hall returned Oswald to jail at 11:30 AM. Shortly afterwards, Sims, Boyd, Hall, and Det. G. W. Dhority went to 1026 North Beckley to recheck Oswald's room. We arrived at 11:40 AM and left at 12:30 PM. At approximately 6:00 PM Sims assisted M. G. Hall and Det. L. C. Graves in checking Oswald out of jail and brought him to Capt. Fritz's office. Sims didn't stay in the office during the interrogation. After the interrogation, Sims assisted Hall and Graves in returning Oswald to jail at 7:15 PM.